United Nations S/2001/727

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2001

Original: English

**Letter dated 24 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations (see annex).

I would appreciate it if this letter were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia

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## Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 13 July from Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, concerning the travel ban imposed by paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lami **Kawah**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

## Enclosure

I am pleased to present my compliments and to refer to your letter dated 12 July 2001, in response to a request for a waiver of the travel ban imposed by paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) to allow the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Finance to travel to Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 14 July 2001 to attend the World Cup qualifying soccer match between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

I was taken aback to learn that the Committee did not grant favourable consideration to the request. Apparently, the Committee did not recognize the nuances of the visit and its implication for the improvement in the relationship among members of the Mano River Union and the promotion of dialogue.

The soccer match was not the primary motivation for the proposed visit but rather it provided an opportunity for confidence-building and dialogue. It is my considered opinion that the Council's rejection of the Government's request runs contrary to the spirit of resolution 1343 (2001) and the search for sustainable peace within the Mano River Union.

It is the hope of the Liberian Government that the Committee did not view the Government's request solely in the context of a soccer match. Despite the Committee's position, the Government of Liberia will continue to pursue dialogue and other avenues of improving its relationship with its neighbours.

(*Signed*) Monie R. **Captan**
Minister